

Appl. No. 10/647,783
In re Fenioux et al.
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated May 18, 2006. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

The specification was objected to because the reference numeral "33" was used to designate both torque limiter and torsion damper. The specification has been amended to correct this minor inconsistency. No new matter has been added.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 14 has been amended, thus overcoming this rejection. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2 and 11-14 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Soares et al. (US 6,062,103). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

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Regarding claim 1: Applicant respectfully submits that the applied document, *i.e.*, the double flywheel of Soares, does not meet this standard of anticipation. More specifically, Soares fails to disclose the torsion damper having variable stiffness. The Examiner erroneously alleges that the stiffness of the resilient damping means 3 of Soares is variable and refers to Fig. 2 of Soares. However, the Examiner's allegation is unsupported by the disclosure of the '103 patent. Nowhere in the specification Soares discloses that the stiffness of the resilient damping means 3 is variable. In the event that the Examiner maintains this rejection of claim 1 in a future written communication, the Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to point to a specific place (column, line) in the '103 patent where Soares discloses the recited variable stiffness of the torsion damper.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Soares is improper.

Regarding claim 2: Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied document, *i.e.*, the double flywheel of Soares, does not meet this standard of anticipation. More specifically, Soares fails to disclose the torsion damper having variable stiffness obtained with resilient means in the form of helical springs. Nowhere in the specification has Soares disclosed that the helical springs of the resilient damping means 3 of Soares have variable stiffness. In the event that the Examiner maintains this rejection of claim 2 in a future written communication, the Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to point to a specific place (column, line) in the '103

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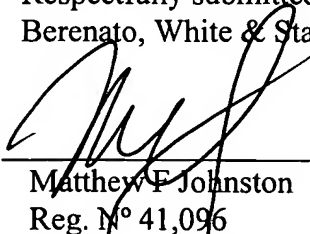
patent where Soares discloses the recited variable stiffness of the helical springs of the resilient damping means 3.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Soares is improper.

Claims 11-14 depend upon claims 1 and 2 and further define the present invention over the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 11-14 define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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